



As prepared

**Statement by Sam Worthington, InterAction
World Humanitarian Summit
Announcement Plenary
Monday, May 23rd, 4:40 pm**

Against the aspirational framing of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, InterAction and 63 member NGOs are honored to present 23 concrete commitments in our pursuit of effective humanitarian action that strives to leave no one behind.

InterAction and its members stand together in a spirit of shared analysis of the challenges to humanity; the solutions needed to address them; and the systemic change that is within our power as donors and implementers to catalyze.

We will advocate with global leadership for the mitigation and end of conflicts.

As humanitarian NGOs, we will point to the behavior and the policies that put civilians at risk. We will call for measures to enhance their security and mitigate civilian harm.

We will strive to maintain a continuous and close proximity to vulnerable people through the neutral, impartial, and independent character of our work. We will pursue all principled means to ensure full access to people in greatest needs. We will hold ourselves accountable to the centrality of protection in every humanitarian response, to help ensure that people are free from violence, coercion, and deliberate deprivation during crises.

InterAction and its NGO members commit to promote participation in decision-making and the leadership of affected people. We will routinely collaborate with Government-led leadership. This collaboration cannot be at the expense of population's needs.

We will be evidence-driven, seeking out new approaches and deconstructing our own internal impediments to be more flexible, more effective and more predictable. We will strive to ensure those we serve benefit from an approach that integrates humanitarian and development elements to the extent principled humanitarian action allows.

We will invest in the long-term capacity of national and local civil society partners, raising their profile with greater transparency. We will advocate for a strong, vibrant civil society that holds us all accountable to the promises we make at this Summit.

Lastly, we will seek to increase direct and predictable funding to national and local civil society, and advocate for long-term support to and develop their capacity to seek and manage funds, as well as their ability to mitigate risks.

Our goal is to go further than our words, by being accountable to the commitments we make, and by matching our commitments with targets and indicators of success. We will monitor our progress and publicly report against our commitments.

And of course, as civil society we will expect the same of all other who come to the Summit with commitments, promises and aspirations. Say what you mean, and mean what you say.

Thank you.